



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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FARMERS SURVEYED ON ASIAN SOYBEAN RUST AWARENESS AND IMPACT

Lincoln, Neb., March 31, 2005 -- Nebraska producers were included in a national survey conducted by USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, which measured producer awareness of Asian soybean rust and whether its discovery impacted their planting intentions for the 2005 crop. This survey was in response to the discovery of the disease in the southern United States and the heightened speculation of how growers would react.

In Nebraska, 86 percent of all farmers surveyed were aware of Asian soybean rust. Of those aware of the disease, only 8 percent said it was a decision making factor in their soybean planting intentions for 2005. Of those 8 percent who said it was a factor in making their decision on how many acres to plant, 17 percent increased their planting intentions, 43 percent decreased their planting intentions, and 40 percent ended up making no change at all. "Awareness by Nebraska producers regarding Asian soybean rust is the third highest in the nation", said Mark Harris, director of USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics service, "this knowledge will provide a solid base for future decisions and actions by producers should they become necessary".

More information on soybean rust can be found at the USDA Soybean Rust Information Site at www.usda.gov/soybeanrust. Visitors to this site can find information on soybean rust identification, movement of soybean rust within the United States, and crop treatment options.

Access the National publication for this release at:
<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/pcp-bbp/pspl0305.pdf>

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